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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
FRI, JANUARY 31 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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#### HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL  
Bush divides EU: 8 Europeans back U.S. - Hurriyet  
Powell's 'multimedia satellite show' on February 5 - Sabah  
Iraqi Ambassador: We won't forget if you help the Americans  
- Milliyet  
France has annual trade of \$1.5 billion w/Iraq, opposes war  
- Vatan  
Turkey to ask for NATO protection in war - Aksam  
Erdogan: Still hopeful about peace - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS  
21 countries open bases to U.S. - Cumhuriyet  
U.S. troops in Northern Iraq - Radikal  
NSC to discuss sending troops to Iraq - Zaman  
Worldwide reaction to U.S. war craze growing - Yeni Safak  
Ankara warm to Papandreou's Cyprus approach - Radikal

FINANCIAL JOURNALS  
U.S. discussing future legal owner of Iraqi oil - Dunya  
Moody's: Turkey will need additional \$8-13 billion in war -  
Finansal Forum

#### BRIEFING

Iraq: Prime Minister Gul will try to 'feel the pulse of'  
Middle Eastern leaders on the phone today, and will meet  
with the EU troika - Greek and Italian Foreign Ministers  
Papandreou and Frattini -- and EU representative Solana in  
Ankara on Friday. The National Security Council on Friday  
afternoon will discuss the issue of Iraq, and alternative  
war plans drafted by the TGS. Papers regard today's NSC  
meeting as 'critical' because the Council is expected to  
evaluate U.S. demands from Turkey, and to come up with a  
response regarding Turkey's involvement in a possible  
military action against Iraq. The NSC will discuss the  
possible deployment of U.S. troops in Turkey, and regional  
countries' reaction to Turkey's likely presence in Northern  
Iraq in the event of war. The NSC will advise the  
government to seek parliamentary approval for Turkey's  
involvement in war. The NSC will also decide on U.S.  
requests for construction work to upgrade Turkish bases.  
Papers report that the U.S. Ambassador to Ankara, Robert  
Pearson, paid a visit to Prime Minister Gul on Thursday to  
warn him that time is running short. Pearson urged Turkey  
to take a decision as soon as possible regarding its  
involvement in a possible operation. Dailies carry a WP  
article saying that in an effort to ease Ankara's concerns,  
the U.S. will warn the Northern Iraqi Kurdish groups not to  
enter Mosul and Kirkuk. "Radikal" quotes a 'high-level'  
Northern Iraqi official as saying that 2,000 U.S. troops and  
intelligence personnel will enter the region from Turkey and  
be stationed around Duhok, Erbil and Sulaimaniya.  
Meanwhile, dailies report Iraqi Ambassador Talib Salih's  
warnings to the Turkish government not to open bases to the  
U.S.. The Americans cannot succeed without Turkey's  
support, Salih said, and if Turkey allows U.S. troops to  
wage war against Iraq, the Iraqi nation will never forget  
it. Meanwhile, 35 Turkish citizens have volunteered to join  
Mike Nichols O'Keefe's group of human shields, who will be  
traveling from London to Istanbul. The groups will leave

for Baghdad on February 5 to stay there for two months. We are not going there to support Saddam, the volunteers said, and if we feel we are being exploited by the Iraqi regime, we will immediately leave Iraq.

Turkey, EU Troika meeting: Greek and Italian Foreign Ministers Papandreou and Frattini, and EU representative Solana came to Ankara on Thursday. Papandreou said after a meeting with Foreign Minister Yakis on Thursday that a compromise between Ankara and Athens would serve as a model for the sides in Cyprus. Papandreou noted that political will was essential for a solution to the Cyprus problem, which he said is "very near." However, Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas sounded a pessimistic note, saying that even if there is an agreement between the two sides on the island, it will be difficult for the two communities to live together. Papers quote EU's expansion chief Verheugen as stressing that even if no compromise is reached on the island by February 28, the Greek Cypriot side will be admitted to the EU as a full member in May 2003. Verheugen added that the EU prefers to see a united Cyprus as a full member of the EU family.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"This support is good enough for Bush"

Erdal Guven wrote in liberal-intellectual Radikal (1/31): "Following the declaration of support by eight members of the EU for a US operation against Iraq, it seems that the French-German bloc is isolated. . This is the kind of support that will make President Bush very happy and will be good enough to go ahead with his Iraq plan. . As a result of this support, we can conclude that the EU has not yet developed a unified foreign policy; France and Germany are the 'engine' but not the 'brain' for the Union. We also can infer that the EU enlargement process seems to be working for the US benefit rather than the European Union's."

"Waiting for February 5"

Yilmaz Oztuna wrote in conservative-mass appeal Turkiye (1/31): "It remains to be seen whether Secretary Powell's arguments and the proof that he will present will be convincing enough for the members of the UN Security Council, especially France, Germany, Syria, Russia, China and Pakistan. It does not appear that they will take the evidence as the basis for granting full support to a US military action against Iraq. The UNSC members will most likely work on the middle-way formula, asking Iraq to comply and suggesting additional time for the inspectors. . Nothing, however, will be able to change the US position. The US will act the way it plans, and reactions from the world will be doomed to remain irrelevant. The US is on the path of no return. The operation will happen. It is a matter of the welfare of the American people and the protection of the Pax-Americana."

PEARSON